

Explosion Destroys Beauty Salon in City

Torrance

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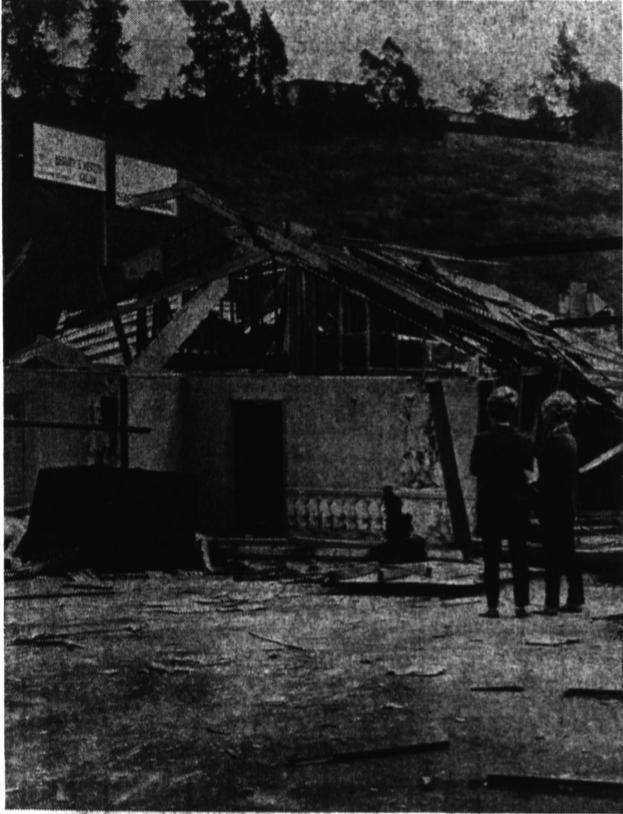
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BEAUTY SALON DESTROYED... Two passersby stop to inspect the damage to a beauty salon located at Rolling Hills Road and Crenshaw Boulevard about noon yesterday. The salon was destroyed by an explosion which also damaged an adjacent restaurant about 4:30 a.m. yesterday. Cause of the explosion, which sent timbers, glass, and concrete hurling in all directions, has not been determined. Damage was estimated at \$25,000 to \$30,000. (Press-Herald Photo)

City's Renewal Project Gets Federal Approval

Blast Lifts Roof

Verdon's Beauty and Health Salon lies in ruins today following an explosion early Tuesday morning that ripped off the roof and shattered two windows of an adjacent seafood restaurant.

No injuries were reported from the blast, which occurred at 4:25 a.m. Tuesday at 25909 Rolling Hills Road. Five fire-fighting units were dispatched to the scene to put out a small blaze that resulted from the explosion.

Damage from the blast amounted to some \$25,000, according to Chief Robert Lucas of the Torrance Fire Department. Cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

The pre-dawn blast sent volleys of concrete, glass, and timber fragments shooting across the large front parking lot and street, causing minor damage to an automobile parked on the opposite side of Rolling Hills Road.

Verdon's Beauty and Health Salon is owned by Vera Giblin, 2406 W. 235th Place. The seafood restaurant, which occupies the larger portion of the building, was to have opened soon.

\$1,600 Appropriated To Check Petitions

The Torrance City Council voted last night to retain the firm of Martin and Chapman to check approximately 17,000 signatures on two urban renewal petitions. The two petitions, circulated in Torrance during the past six months, seek to place the issue of urban renewal on a special city ballot.

It is estimated that ten persons can complete the work in eight days, presenting a total bill of \$1,600. The checking clerks will each be paid \$2.50 per hour.

The two petitions were submitted last Thursday to City Clerk Vernon W. Coil by members of Active Citizens of Torrance (ACT). Those listing their signatures hope to repeal the Uniform Housing Code, adopted by the City Council to satisfy federal requirements for participation in the urban renewal program.

Funds Ordered To Buy Parcels

Within the next two days, curbs and drains be in the Torrance Redevelopment Agency expects to begin purchasing property for its proposed airport-oriented industrial park. This 56-acre redevelopment project is focused on the land just west of the Torrance Municipal Airport.

The news about imminent property purchases followed the announcement that the Department of Housing and Urban Development Tuesday morning approved the contract for the project.

Lawrence P. Irwin, deputy director of the Torrance Redevelopment Agency, said that the loan available for working capital amounts to nearly \$6 1/2 million and that the federal grant will be some \$3 1/2 million.

AN ADDITIONAL sum, \$117,900, was granted for the relocation of residences and businesses, Irwin said. The first funds, Irwin continued, have been ordered from the U.S. Treasury and will arrive in a few days. Purchasing will begin immediately upon receipt of the funds.

The Redevelopment Agency has earmarked 144 residences, 18 businesses and about 60 vacant residential lots located within the 56 acres. Irwin expects 90 per cent of this property to be purchased without incident within the next 12 months.

"We have the power of eminent domain," Irwin said, "but we don't expect to use it."

THE ENTIRE project, which will take about five years to complete, requires that all buildings now located on the 56 acres be demolished and \$1 1/2 million worth of improvements such as streets, curbs, and drains be installed.

When completed, the redeveloped area will be attractive to airport-oriented light industry, Irwin said. The industrial park will feature taxi-ways running into the project, permitting company-owned airplanes to taxi up to the front entrances of plants located within the park.

Irwin added that the project will also feature a new north-south arterial, Madison Street, which will run through the project, relieving traffic on Hawthorne Boulevard.

When the new industries are established in the complex, Irwin stated, tax revenues collected by the city will amount to about eight and one-half times the sum now being collected.

RTD Plan Wins City Approval

Torrance councilmen last night gave tentative approval to a proposal whereby the Southern California Rapid Transit District will take over operation of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

Councilmen instructed city administrators to meet with RTD officials to iron out the proposal and draw up the necessary papers.

Under the plan, the transit district will pay the city \$110,000 for buses and other equipment and operate the bus lines for two years under contract. Cost to the city would be \$70,000 for each year. At the end of the two years, the city would have the option of renewing the contract or turning the bus lines over to the RTD.

Cityhood Vote Assured

An election on the proposed incorporation of the Carson-Dominguez area has been virtually assured following a report yesterday to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Petitions seeking to incorporate the area were signed by 5,965 persons — 25.3 per cent of the land owners within the proposed boundaries, James S. Mize, clerk of the Board of Supervisors, said. The signatures represent 41.3 per cent of the assessed valuation of the area, Mize added. Supervisors set Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. for a boundary and protest hearing. At least 51 per cent of the land owners in the area would have to file written protests in order to halt an election at this point.

New Directories Ready

The first copies of the new South Bay telephone directory will be delivered to customers in the Redondo Beach-Torrance area today. The new directory is one of four localized directories being used to replace the bulkier and more familiar Southern Section directory. The South Bay directory will list exchanges in the Lomita, Torrance, Peninsula, and Beach Cities. Three other directories cover the Long Beach area, the Airport area, and the Mid-Cities area. Portions of North Torrance and Gardena are listed in both the Mid-Cities and South Bay directories.

Burglar Gets \$400 Cash

A burglar who may have used a pass key took \$400 in cash and her final divorce papers sometime Tuesday, Ada E. Marshall, 37, of 2149 W. 230th St., told Torrance police. Mrs. Marshall said the theft occurred between 7:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Tuesday. Police said no signs of a forced entry were discovered and speculated that the thief may have had a key to a rear door.

New Court Date Set for O'Brien

Jerry Lee O'Brien, a 34-year-old prison escapee who is accused of gunning down Torrance Police Officer David N. Seibert, has been ordered to answer murder charges in Superior Court Oct. 10.

O'Brien, who also is charged with robbery and assault with intent to commit murder, was ordered held without bail during a preliminary hearing yesterday before Judge George R. Perkovich in South Bay Municipal Court.

Judge Perkovich set 9 a.m. Oct. 10 for O'Brien to appear on the charges in Department A of the Southwest Superior Court.

O'Brien is accused of killing Seibert during a \$15,000 market robbery last Aug. 10. A nationwide search had been launched after he was apparently identified from police files by witnesses.

He was taken into custody in Tooele, Utah, following an automobile crash in which he was seriously injured. O'Brien waived extradition proceedings to return to Torrance and face the charges. He was returned to Torrance Sept. 13.

City Honors Hahn for Leadership in County

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, a member of the Board of Supervisors since 1952, was honored last night by the Torrance City Council for "his dedication and leadership" on behalf of Torrance.

Hahn, present for the informal presentation, received a resolution from the council. In brief remarks following the presentation, Hahn hailed the city for its "dynamic and progressive" attitude. Hahn said he knows of no city in California which is moving ahead so rapidly.

He said the county now has 77 cities and that many were standing still, while others were falling back. Others, he added, are creeping slowly ahead, but "Torrance is moving like a jet."

When Hahn was first elected to the board, his district included only the North Torrance area. His district was expanded several years ago and he now represents all of the city north of Carson Street.

Smokers Cough Up \$6 Million
SACRAMENTO — California smokers added \$6,932,636 to the state's tax coffers by smoking more than 231 million packs of cigarettes during July.

Consumption was up 12.2 per cent from the same period in 1966, according to reports from the Tobacco Tax Council.

Smokers paid 3 cents state tax per pack during July.

Torrance Family YMCA Seeks 'Good Neighbor'

Nominations for the YMCA's annual Good Neighbor trophy will be considered at the YMCA Board of Managers meeting Thursday evening, Oct. 12.

William Cave, chairman of this year's Good Neighbor Breakfast at the Torrance Family YMCA Saturday, Oct. 14, has asked everyone to take a moment to recognize the kindness of another person in this city.

Cave reminded all that this award is always reserved for some "average" person who

has quietly gone about doing good things for others without recognition. Recipients have come from all walks of life, and many have not been active in the local "Y."

Cave stated that the main purpose of the award is to encourage every resident to be aware of the neighborly spirit within our community, and to honor one person who has given unselfishly of himself.

The present "YMCA Good Neighbor" is Mrs. Robert Forsythe, 18814 Haas Ave.,

selected by her neighbors because of many projects headquartering in her garage.

The YMCA Good Neighbor of 1967 will be announced at the city's largest and oldest annual community breakfast, the 20th annual YMCA Good Neighbor Breakfast, from 6:30 until 11 a.m. at the Torrance Family YMCA Building, 2900 W. Sepulveda Blvd.

All nominating letters should be addressed to William Cave, YMCA, Post Office Box 3306, Torrance, 90510.

Controversy Revived

Order New Study Of Travel Policy

By NATALIE HALL, Press-Herald Staff Writer
Travel expenditures of all those who have served on the Torrance City Council during the past 12 years are now under investigation, following charges of abuse of expense account privileges lodged at Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

Mayor Albert Isen broached the subject by suggesting that a travel expense account cell-

would no longer cloud the picture. . . . LYMAN ASKED that exact figures be tallied on how many trips each councilman had taken in the last 12 years and how much city money was spent. All other members of the City Council, with exception of Councilman J. A. Beasley, voted to have Lyman's suggestion carried out.

Lyman noted that charges of abuse have been circulating during the last three years. The study, he said, would show whether or not more funds had actually been spent during the years when abuse charges were being lodged.

It is beneficial for the city of Torrance, Lyman continued, that councilmen attend these various conferences and conventions as official city representatives. Councilmen (See TRAVEL, Page A-2)

YOUTH HONORED AS CARRIER OF MONTH

Twelve-year-old Greg Marglese, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marglese of 23447 Leyte Drive, today was named the Press-Herald Carrier-of-the-Month for September.

Darrell Westcott, Press-Herald circulation manager, said "Greg has an abundance of enthusiasm so necessary and helpful to this business" in announcing the award.

"He approaches his readers with a pleasant smile and faith in his product," Westcott said. "He is making many new friends and subscribers all along his Press-Herald route."

The Marglese family has lived in Torrance for the past 15 years. Greg's father is principal of Juan de Anza School in the Wiseburn School District near Hawthorne. His mother is active in Temple Menorah.

A student at Calle Mayor School, Greg also spends three days each week in Religious and Hebrew School. He plays chess, likes to swim, and says his favorite sport is football.

A brother, David, 14, and a sister, Michelle, 15, attend



GREG MARGLESE